

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CANBER 02429 250846Z

15

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

----- 059061

R 250330Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3068

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 2429

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AS, US

SUBJECT: AUSTRALIAN FOREIGN MINISTER INVITES AMBASSADOR
GREEN AS CORAL SEA VISITOR

REF.: CANBERRA 2308

1. SUMMARY: IN CONVERSATION ON OTHER SUBJECTS APRIL 24, AUSTRALIAN FONMIN WILLESEE EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT NO OFFICIAL CORAL SEA VISITOR WILL BE COMING FROM U.S. THIS YEAR AND ASKED IF I WOULD ACCEPT INVITATION AS THE US CORAL SEA CELEBRATIONS REPRESENTATIVE. HE WAS EVIDENTLY DISTURBED THAT OPPOSITION AND/OR PRESS WOULD MAKE POLITICAL USE OF U.S. DECISION NOT TO SEND VISITOR AS INDICATION THAT THIS REFLECTED DIFFERENCES U.S. HAS HAD WITH LABOR GOVERNMENT. AFTER WILLESEE REPEATEDLY RETURNED TO THEME, I SAID I HAD NO OBJECTION TO RECEIVING INVITATION BUT I COULD NOT CONSIDER MAKING ANY SPEECHES FOR THE SAME REASON SECRETARY WEINBERGER WAS NOT COMING AND WOULD HAVE TO REQUEST INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE ACCEPTING. ACTION RECOMMENDED: THAT I BE INSTRUCTED TO ACCEPT INVITATION TO BE CORAL SEA REPRESENTATIVE ON STIPULATION OF MAKING NO MORE THAN MINIMUM REMARKS OR TOAST APPROPRIATE TO THE OCCASION. END SUMMARY

2. IN CONVERSATION WITH ME ON OTHER SUBJECTS APRIL 24 FONMIN WILLESEE RAISED ISSUE OF CORAL SEA VISITOR AGAIN. HE SAID HE REALIZED THAT U.S. HAD DECIDED NOT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 CANBER 02429 250846Z

TO SEND SECRETARY WEINBERGER DURING ELECTIONS PERIOD,

DESPITE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION. (WE HAVE YET TO RECEIVE ANY MESSAGE FROM WASHINGTON ON LATEST DEVELOPMENTS THIS ISSUE, INCLUDING INGERSOLL MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR SHAW WHICH WILLESEE SAID OCCURRED APRIL 19).

3. WILLESEE SAID AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT IS CONCERNED ABOUT U.S. DECISION, SINCE IT MIGHT BE USED BY AUSTRALIAN OPPOSITION AS POLITICAL PLOY. HE SAID THAT PRIMIN'S DEPARTMENT HAD SUGGESTED POSSIBILITY THAT I BE NAMED FORMALLY AS CORAL SEA CELEBRATIONS REPRESENTATIVE FOR U.S., NOTING THAT FORMER CHARGE AT EMBASSY IN 1969, ED CRONK, HAD BEEN SO NAMED, APPARENTLY WHEN OTHER ARRANGEMENTS HAD FALLEN THROUGH.

4. I NOTED THAT I WOULD, IN ANY CASE, BE ATTENDING SEVERAL OF THE CORAL SEA FUNCTIONS AS AN OFFICIAL GUEST OF THE AUSTRALIAN-AMERICAN ASSOCIATION. I SAID I HAD MADE IT CLEAR THAT, PARTICULARLY UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES, I COULD NOT GIVE ANY MAJOR SPEECHES, THOUGH I COULD MAKE RELATIVELY BRIEF INFORMAL REMARKS APPROPRIATE TO THE OCCASION.

5. WILLESEE REPEATEDLY RETURNED TO THEME, NOTING HE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE ME DESIGNATED AS CORAL SEA REPRESENTATIVE, AGAIN EXPRESSING CONCERN THAT OPPOSITION MAY ALLEGE THAT U.S. IS NOT RPT NOT SENDING CORAL SEA REPRESENTATIVE BECAUSE OF DIFFERENCES U.S. HAD HAD WITH AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT AND THAT OFFICIAL U.S. REPRESENTATIVE WOULD NOT TAKE PART IN TRADITIONAL CELEBRATIONS. HE WAS ALSO CONCERNED THAT AUSTRALIAN PRESS WOULD TAKE SIMILAR LINE.

6. AFTER CONSIDERABLE BACK AND FORTH ON ISSUE, I SAID I WOULD NOT OBJECT TO RECEIVING AN INVITATION IF IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT I WOULD NOT MAKE SPEECHES FOR SAME REASON THAT SECRETARY WEINBERGER COULD NOT. I NOTED THAT, AS WILLESEE KNEW WELL FROM HIS OWN EXPERIENCE, THE PRESS HERE HAD GREAT CAPACITY FOR TWISTING PUBLIC STATEMENTS AROUND. THE AUSTRALIAN-AMERICAN ASSOCIATION SEEMS TO UNDERSTAND THE REASON FOR THE POSTPONEMENT OF THE WEINBERGER

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 CANBER 02429 250846Z

VISIT, AS DOES THE PRIMIN'S DEPARTMENT. I CONCLUDED THAT I WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO CONFIRM ACCEPTANCE OF SUCH AN INVITATION WITHOUT OBTAINING APPROVAL OF MY GOVERNMENT. I WOULD NOT, OF COURSE, HAVE ANY SPECIAL MESSAGE TO DELIVER ON BEHALF OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT.

7. IN COURSE OF CONVERSATION WILLESEE SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO MOVE AWAY FROM PAST WAYS OF CELEBRATING CORAL SEA ANNI-

VERSARY AND WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS MATTER WITH ME IN A FEW MONTHS, AFTER ELECTION IS OVER. HE AGREED WITH ME THAT TURNING THIS INTO AN AUSTRALIAN-AMERICAN WEEK MIGHT BE ADVISABLE IN VIEW OF JAPANESE SENSITIVITIES AND OTHER FACTORS.

8. COMMENT: REPEATED EFFORTS BY WILLESEE TO GET U.S. TO RECONSIDER DECISION TO POSTPONE VISIT BY SECRETARY WEINBERGER ATTEST TO SIGNIFICANT CONCERN HE FEELS OVER ISSUE. HE PUSHED HARD ENOUGH SO THAT I BELIEVE IT WOULD BE DISCOURTEOUS IF I WERE INSTRUCTED TO DECLINE INVITATION FROM AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT. HOWEVER, I BELIEVE I SHOULD BE INSTRUCTED TO ACCEPT ONLY ON CONDITIONS MENTIONED ABOVE.

GREEN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS, CORAL SEA, REPRESENTATION AT CEREMONIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974CANBER02429
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740097-0804
From: CANBERRA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740415/aaaaanpc.tel
Line Count: 130
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: : CANBERRA 2308
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 JUL 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <26 MAR 2003 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AUSTRALIAN FOREIGN MINISTER INVITES AMBASSADOR GREEN AS CORAL SEA VISITOR
TAGS: PFOR, AS, US, (GREEN, MARSHALL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005